

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. In HOME Telephones are utilities that in today's world are a necessity not a luxury! My bill has taxes upon taxes and charges that sometimes are higher than actual usage. I understand line connected phone companies are losing business to cellular companies but I should not have to pay their stockholders for the losses. Give me a simplified bill, if I choose my local phone company as my long distance provider than WHY do I also pay an access fee to use that commodity?? I for one believe cell phone companies get away with practices that should never have been allowed, even with free enterprise, their phones should be continuously usable, when changing providers users should be able to choose an updated phone not trash millions of phones because they switched!! Utilities should continue being PUBLIC SERVICES not Legal Public thieves.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.